

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 068144

R 050940Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4713

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, BX, RP

SUBJECT: SABAH CLAIM

REF: MANILA 5763

1. DURING AFTER DINNER CONVERSATION MAY 4 MALAYSIAN AND
INDONESIAN COUNSELORS (HASHIM TAIB AND PUDIJANTO SUDARJOEN)
TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD AGREED WITH SUHARTO
AND HUSSEIN ONN AT BALI SUMMIT CONFERENCE THAT HE WOULD MAKE PUBLIC
STATEMENT GIVING UP CLAIM TO SABAH IF THE SABAH ELECTIONS
TURNED AGAINST MUSTAPHA. MALAYSIAN COUNSELOR SAID COMMIT-
MENT WAS CATEGORICAL. DESPITE FACT ELECTIONS HAD PROVIDED
RESOUNDING DEFEAT FOR MUSTAPHA, MARCOS HAD SAID NOTHING.
GOM HAD BEEN LOOKING ANEXIOUSLY FOR SIGN THAT MARCOS INTENDED
TO CARRY THROUGH WITH COMMITMENT, CONSEQUENTLY CAREFULLY SIFTING
THROUGH CONTROLLED PRESS AND DAILY EXPRESS COLUMNIST VALENCIA
REMAKRS ON SABAH FOR SIGNS OF MOVEMENT. GOM HAD FOUND
NONE SO FAR AND, MALAYSIAN COUNSELOR INTIMATED, HUSSIE ONN WAS
BECOMING DISAPPOINTED THAT RAPPORT HE HAD ESTABLISHED
WITH MARCOS IN KUALA LUMPUR AND BALI WAS NOT TURNING OUT
AS HE HAD HOPED.

2. INDONESIA MINISTER (ACHMAD DJUMIRIL), WHILE NOT CHALL-
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ENDING SUMMIT "COMMITMENT", SAID HE DOUBTED THAT MARCOS WOULD

MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT UNLESS HE GOT SOMETHING IN RETURN
(MEANING GOM ASSURANCE TO CURTAIL ASSISTANCE TO MNLF).
FAVORABLE ELECTION OUTCOME AND ENCOURAGING FUAD STEPHENS'
STATEMENTS WERE NOT ENOUGH.

3. COMMENT: WE HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE OF SUCH COMMITMENT
AND FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE MARCOS WOULD PROMISE PUBLIC
STATEMENT IN RETURN FOR SUCH NON-COMMITTAL QUID (SEE REFTEL).
NEVERTHELESS, TONE OF INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN REMAKRKS SUG-
GESTS THEY BELIEVE HE COMMITTED HIMSELF, WHETHER OR NOT
MARCOS ACTUALLY MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. IF THEIR REMARKS
REFLECT GOVERNMENT VIEWS, AS WE ASSUME THEY DO, ALL MAY NOT
BE SWEETNESS AND LIGHT BETWEEN THESE GOVERNMENT.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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